



Objective: Cohesion

Policy briefing on approaches to implement and measure the progress towards economic, social and territorial cohesion at EU and Member State level

22 October 2019, 16.30 – 17.30

**at the European Committee of the Regions
room JDE 51
Rue Belliard 99-101**

Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion and reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favored regions is one of the key objectives of the European Union that is enshrined in the EU Treaties. Cohesion policy is the main European investment policy intended to support Member States and their regions and cities to achieving this objective.

Similar cohesion objectives exist also at the level of the Member States. The German constitution, for example, contains the explicit goal to achieve equivalent living conditions across the German states (Länder) and regions. In order to counter the existing and growing disparities between and inside the various parts of Germany, the Federal Government has set up a high-ranking commission on 'Equivalent Living Conditions', led by the Federal Minister for the Interior, Building and Community, which aimed at identifying the root causes of regional inequality and drawing up recommendations for possible policy responses, both in urban and rural areas.

The briefing session will provide an opportunity to learn more about the approaches to tackle territorial disparities both at EU and Member State level, in order to reach the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The event forms part of the activities of the European Committee of the Regions promoting the #CohesionAlliance for a strong, effective and more visible cohesion policy beyond 2020.

Programme:

- Welcome by Thomas Wobben, Director for Legislative works, European Committee of the Regions
- Focus on equivalent living conditions: The work of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
Dr. Michael Frehse, Director-General, Directorate-General H – Community, German Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU: Overview on the state of play and the challenges ahead
Rudolf Niessler, Principal Adviser for International Relations, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Discussion with the participants

Interpretation will be provided in English and German.
